

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

ELECTRICITY FOR POSTWAR FARMING

cap 3
A radio discussion by John Asher, U. S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Electrification Administration; Rodney Hall, farm boy of Turner County, South Dakota; and Wallace L. Kadderly, U. S. Department of Agriculture's Radio Service. Recorded Tuesday, January 16, 1945. Time: Seven minutes and thirty seconds without announcer's parts.

ANNOUNCER: (LIVE) From time to time, we've been bringing you discussions of questions farmers will face after the war. They are based on reports of the United States Department of Agriculture's Committee on Postwar Planning. We're ready now with another of these discussions, and by transcription, we'll hear from Wallace Kadderly in Washington.

TRANSCRIPTION

KADDERLY: One of the things interrupted by the war was the business of making electric service available to more people in rural areas. The Department's Postwar Committee has recommended a plan for resuming this work just as soon as men and materials can be released to do the job. John Asher and Rodney Hall and I are going to talk about this for a few minutes. Mr. Asher is with the Rural Electrification Administration. Rodney is a 16 year-old National 4-H Club rural electrification winner from Turner County, South Dakota.

We'll start with Mr. Asher. John, electricity has been brought to many rural homes in the past ten years, but many are still blacked out. Tell us how many of our rural dwellings are still without electric service.

ASHER: About three out of every five, Wallace.

KADDERLY: Rodney, you live in one of these three-out-of-five homes that don't have central station electric service. How do you feel about it?

HALL: Electricity could do so much to take the drudgery out of farm life. When I was about six years old, we lived a while in town. I can still remember how it puzzled me that we could pull a string and have light. My little brother and I thought it was magnetism. I decided to improve the magnet and make it stronger. It was a good thing we knew rubber was an insulator. We didn't have any rubber gloves, and we put swim shoes on our hands. We put the magnet in the socket and turned the switch. There was one big flash. . . and no more lights until two little boys walked over to the light plant for some fuses. Later, we moved back to the farm, but I never forgot how much easier it is to do things with electricity.

KADDERLY: On that point of how much work electric power does for us, Rodney, let's ask Mr. Asher to run over some of the farm jobs that just one kilowatt of electricity can do. Will you do that, John?

ASHER: Well. . . Take milking. . . one kilowatt of electricity will milk 30 cows. Or it will shell about 30 bushels of corn. Or cut a ton of silage and lift it into a 30-foot silo. Or one kilowatt of electricity will bring a thousand gallons of water from the average farm well into the house.

KADDERLY: That would call for about 200 trips to the well with the old oaken bucket, wouldn't it, Rodney?

HALL: I expect it would. Well, without a power line, I couldn't help the water situation on our farm much, but I did install an old windcharger on our house and put in lights downstairs that are a great help to us. I had to repair this old windcharger before it would work. Four of us in my family had 4-H Club poultry projects, and I wired the poultry house and used an old car battery to furnish light and increase production.

KADDERLY: You managed mighty well with a windmill and some batteries, Rodney!

Now, John, let's get on to the plans for greater rural electric service after the war. What is the Department's Postwar Committee recommending.

ASHER: To put it in a nutshell, Wallace, it proposes to bring central station electric service to nearly four million rural homes within 5 years after the war. The plan calls for projects that will pay for themselves and would not be a burden on the taxpayers. This would help to cut down the need for tax-supported public works to provide jobs after the war. The use of both private capital and public funds is recommended to finance the work.

KADDERLY: Of course, bringing electric service to country people is the main thing. But other important benefits will come from it too. . .

ASHER: Yes. . . extremely important benefits, such as full use of electricity for rural industries, hospital, churches, and schools. Outlets for goods and services will be created that would run around five and half billion dollars. Goods and services, of course, means such things as building power lines, manufacturing and installing wiring and plumbing, feed grinders, pig brooders, poultry house equipment, and washing machines. . . and the jobs all these activities would provide.

KADDERLY: How many jobs?

ASHER: Something in the neighborhood of two and three-quarter million man-years of work.

KADDERLY: Hold on there! Two and three quarter million man-years of work! What does that mean?

Let's dig into it a little. Two and three-quarter million man-years of work in a period of five years. Just suppose. . . of course it won't work out that way. but just suppose the same men worked for the full five years. How many men would it take?

ASHER: Over half a million men. 550,000, to be exact.

KADDERLY: Since it wouldn't be possible for the same men to work continuously. actually far more than 550,000 men would have jobs doing this work.

ASHER: Very likely. Before the thing was over, the number might run to a million or more.

KADDERLY: Winning the war comes first, and nothing can or will be done to carry out the rural electricity program until the war situation permits, but will this work get under way as soon as possible after that?

ASHER: Yes. Congress passed legislation last September that advanced the entire REA program considerably. Under the original authorization, it ran for only ten years. The new law makes REA permanent and makes the terms of the loans more liberal.

KADDERLY: Have any plans been made about the business of lining up and obtaining construction materials. . . have estimates been made and so on?

ASHER: The preliminary planning has been carried just as far as possible. REA knows exactly what materials are needed and in what quantities. . . materials such as wire, poles, meters, hand tools, transformers, insulators and so on. The War Production Board has told REA it believes restrictions can be lifted very soon after the war in Europe ceases.

KADDERLY: Are you counting on some of these materials coming from surplus military stocks?

ASHER: Yes. The estimates have already been submitted.

KADDERLY: So, all in all, the look ahead for getting rural electric service to more rural homes after the war is fairly bright?

ASHER: As bright as advance planning can make it, I think. . . though starting to work depends entirely on the course of the war. I'd like to say that one of the things we're particularly looking forward to is bringing electricity to families in the back country through the area-rural coverage plan. REA cooperatives have already shown that even thinly-populated/areas can be taken care of on a practical basis. We think that problem is in a fair way to be worked out.

KADDERLY: Now, Rodney, you're one of the folks who's anxious for the plans to work out. Your whole life is before you. You have a real stake in this thing. What are you figuring on first when you get a power line?

HALL: We want everything 110 volts A.C. We want fluorescent lights in all rooms in the house, because that's such an improvement over the old-type bulbs and kerosene lamps we have now. I could soon take out four bolts and put an electric motor on Mom's washing machine in place of the old gas motor she has to use now. Then we could have an electric vacuum cleaner, refrigerator, and a fan. Mom could use the electric iron I got as a prize at the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. We could have an automatic switch on the pump at the stock tank and there would be no more forgetting to turn off the windmill. I can think of many other things I could fix myself around the farm buildings to help my Dad. All the farmers around our neighborhood want REA lines, and I'm sure we'll get a power line after the war. It was scheduled before, but the war stopped it. I think electricity will improve rural America more than anything else ever has.

END OF TRANSCRIPTION

ANNOUNCER: (LIVE) Thousands of young farm people would say the same thing, Rodney. In the State of _____ there're _____
(Name of State) (Fill in from attached sheet)
rural dwellings still without electric service. If you or a group of your farm neighbors are interested in electric service after the war, talk to the county agricultural agent, or write the Rural Electrification Administration, St. Louis, Missouri. The folks you heard in this discussion were John Asher and Wallace Kadderly of the United States Department of Agriculture, and Rodney Hall, 16-year-old farm boy of Turner County, South Dakota.

RURAL FARM AND NON-FARM DWELLING UNITS WITHOUT
ELECTRIC SERVICE AS OF JANUARY 1, 1945

Alabama.....	342,916
Arizona.....	40,118
Arkansas.....	316,491
California.....	88,358
Colorado.....	74,233
Connecticut.....	16,309
Delaware.....	11,876
Florida.....	141,748
Georgia.....	342,765
Idaho.....	30,831
Illinois.....	206,982
Indiana.....	149,056
Iowa.....	160,415
Kansas.....	145,591
Kentucky.....	322,035
Louisiana.....	256,429
Maine.....	49,465
Maryland.....	62,337
Massachusetts.....	5,267
Michigan.....	113,421
Minnesota.....	181,930
Mississippi.....	355,244
Missouri.....	312,578
Montana.....	50,845
Nebraska.....	110,656
Nevada.....	6,892
New Hampshire.....	18,799
New Jersey.....	26,732
New Mexico.....	64,656
New York.....	131,222
North Carolina.....	336,317
North Dakota.....	73,896
Ohio.....	164,034
Oklahoma.....	258,215
Oregon.....	51,108
Pennsylvania.....	180,629
Rhode Island.....	2,420
South Carolina.....	213,883
South Dakota.....	76,244
Tennessee.....	317,636
Texas.....	606,395
Utah.....	8,785
Vermont.....	20,949
Virginia.....	234,561
Washington.....	51,003
West Virginia.....	135,812
Wisconsin.....	141,292
Wyoming.....	21,511

REPAIR FARM MACHINERY

LIVE INTRODUCTION by announcer and TRANSCRIBED STATEMENT by Frederic B. Northrup
Office of Materials and Facilities, War Food Administration, United States
Department of Agriculture. Recorded January 17, 1945. Time: 1 minute.

ANNOUNCER (LIVE): Farmers now making their plans for 1945 crop production are asking about farm machinery. How much new machinery will we have this year?

We put that question to the man in the War Food Administration who represents the farmer when scarce materials are being apportioned for the Army, Navy, agriculture and other essential uses. Frederic B. Northrup. Here's his transcribed answer.

TRANSCRIPTION:

NORTHROP: The outlook for new farm machinery is not as good now as it was last fall. We're in for another tight squeeze.

Increased emphasis on military production has cut off hopes for an increase in farm machinery. On the other hand, if production kept on schedule, we'd have just about as much new machinery for use in '45 as we had in '44. But the cold fact is: production of many implements is lagging behind schedule. This means that old machines again will have to carry a big load of work.

Now there's no Government quota on repair parts. And last year there was a record supply of parts. There'll be another big supply of parts this year. That's a good thing, because every machine that can be made to work will be needed this year.

again

Three kinds of action are important / .They are "Care...repair...and share."

###

RE-USE CONTAINERS

LIVE INTRODUCTION by announcer and TRANSCRIBED STATEMENT by Frederic B. Northrup, Office of Materials and Facilities, War Food Administration, United States Department of Agriculture. Recorded January 17, 1945. Time: 47 seconds.

ANNOUNCER (LIVE): There's a shortage of cotton fabrics this year. And there's a shortage of wood. Both materials are used in making containers that farmers need in their production and marketing. So, in view of the shortage of materials, what's the outlook for bags and wooden containers? For a transcribed answer, we call on Fred Northrup. He looks after farm supplies for the War Food Administration. What is the answer, Fred?

TRANSCRIPTION:

NORTHROP: The answer is that new wooden containers will be scarce, and new bags will be scarce. What's true of bags will also be true of other fabrics used in production -- tobacco cloth, pick-sacks for cotton and fruit, irrigation canvas and so on.

A feed sack that's cut open can't be re-used. A fertilizer bag that isn't cleaned out will rot. A grain sack chewed up by rats is no good. But every bag saved, and turned in to a dealer, will help meet the need.

Whether we speak of bags, other fabrics, or wooden containers, the outlook is this: Our only hope of having enough is to conserve and re-use.

###

